

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A method for moisturizing the eye comprising controllably administering to the surface of the eye an aqueous fluid in an amount that is sufficient to increase the volume of the aqueous layer of the tear film by at least 5% of the volume of the normal aqueous layer and which amount is less than that which causes runoff of the tear film from the eye and permitting the fluid to hydrate the aqueous layer of the tear film.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of fluid is between 50 and 200% of the volume of the normal aqueous layer of the tear film.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the fluid is administered in the form of a mist.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the mist is composed of droplets having an average volume of about 0.1% to 1% of the volume of the normal tear film.
- 25 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the mist is composed of droplets having an average size of between about 5 and 150 microns in diameter.
- 30 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the average size of the droplets is between 10 and 50 microns in diameter.
- 35 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the average size of the droplets is between 15 and 30 microns in diameter.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein quantity of fluid that is administered to the eye surface is less than about 10 μ l.

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a method
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12. The method of claim 11 where
is less than 311 mOsm.

13. The method of claim 1 where
is less than 7.

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6.5.

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16. The method of claim 15 wherein the mist having an average diameter between 5 and 150 microns in diameter.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the mist having an average diameter between 10 and 50 microns in diameter.

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The method of
n 10 and 50 m

The method of
n 15 and 30 m

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19. A kit for moisturizing the eye comprising a container, a fluid within said container, an actuator that delivers between 0.5 and 20 μ l of said fluid within about 10 seconds, and instructions for delivering said
5 dose of fluid to the surface of the eye.

20. The kit of claim 19 wherein the actuator delivers the fluid as a mist having an average droplet size between 50 and 150 microns in diameter.

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21. The kit of claim 20 wherein the average droplet size is between 10 and 50 microns in diameter.

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22. The kit of claim 21 wherein the average
15 droplet size is between about 15 and 30 microns in diameter.

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23. A method for moisturizing the eye comprising administering to the surface of said eye between 0.5 and 10 μ l of an aqueous fluid wherein said fluid is in the form of a mist comprised of droplets having an average size between 5 and 150 microns and wherein the fluid has a pH less than or equal to 7.0 and an osmolarity below that of the normal tear film and
25 permitting said fluid to rehydrate the aqueous portion of the tear film of said eye.

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